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International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : A01N 1/00, 1/02	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/48462 (43) International Publication Date: 24 August 2000 (24.08.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/04270		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
(22) International Filing Date: 18 February 2000 (18.02.00)		
(30) Priority Data: 09/252,331 18 February 1999 (18.02.99) US		
(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 09/252,331 (CIP) Filed on 18 February 1999 (18.02.99)		
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR INHIBITING TRANSPLANT REJECTION

(57) Abstract

A method for inhibiting rejection of tissues transplanted into a mammalian host is disclosed. Treatment of the tissues with an enzyme or combination of enzyme, particularly papain, to eliminate cell surface structures necessary for recognition by the host's immune system, particularly MHC Class I molecules, avoids or reduces the attack of the host's immune system on the transplanted tissues. Tissues that are enzymatically shaved of MHC Class I antigens and/or other critical adhesion molecules can be rendered at least temporarily resistant or enhancing the survivability of the tissues in the host after transplant.